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Sociology

(Classes HM, HN, HQ, HS, HT, HV, HX, Z5703, and Z7161-Z7166)

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I. Scope

Sociology, the study of human social behavior, is defined by subclasses HM through HX, components of class H (Social Sciences) in the Library of Congress classification system. In broad terms, these classes cover:

HM (general and theoretical sociology)
HN (social history and conditions, social problems and reform)
HQ (marriage and the family, sexual life, age groups, women and feminism)
HS (secret and other societies, associations, and clubs)
HT (urban and rural sociology; social classes; and races and race relations, in general)
HV (social work, charities, and public welfare; social pathologies; and criminology)
HX (socialism and communism in general, utopias, and anarchism)
Z5703 (subject bibliography: criminology)
parts of Z161-7166 (subject bibliography: political and social sciences)

The applications and relationships of sociology to a specific subject are generally classed with that subject, e.g., the sociology of religion classes in BL and the sociology of medicine in RA. Much of sociological research and study are interdisciplinary and may be found in subclass H (general social sciences) or elsewhere in the classification schedules. Closely related material is also found in BF (psychology), GN (anthropology), HA (statistics), HB (demography), P (communication and linguistics, including sociolinguistics), and other subclasses.

Given the structure of the LC classification system, this Collections Policy Statement (CPS) considers sociology primarily as treated in subclasses HM-HX, Z5703, and relevant parts of Z7161- 7166. Sociological materials in other classes are out of scope for purposes of defining collecting levels for sociology in part V of this document.

See also the Collections Overview for Sociology.

II. Research Strengths

The sheer size and historical nature of LC's collections have ensured the development of great strength in all areas of sociology with respect to both general and theoretical sociology and their specific subfields, to both academic and popular sociology, and to both current and historical materials. The collections are particularly strong for titles published within and about the United States. In general the Library's holdings of foreign titles in sociology are not as extensive as its holdings of U.S. imprints; this is especially true for foreign serial titles. In subclass HV, the collections of U.S. government documents are notable. The strength of the historical materials provides good documentation of early social research programs both in the U.S. and Europe. The Library's very extensive collection of doctoral dissertations (in digital and micro formats) includes thousands of sociology dissertations spanning a long period and reflecting all aspects of sociological research. With regard to special collections, important materials relating to sociology are found in the Microform Reading Room, the Manuscript Division, and the Prints and Photographs Division.

III. Collecting Policy

The Library collects all scholarly works in all languages, both monographs and serials, on sociology and its subfields; and for U.S. imprints it collects a strong representative selection of popular works. It attempts to acquire all current works of scholarship as well as retrospective publications needed to fill in gaps or strengthen the collections. It acquires all substantial subject bibliographies and other reference works on sociology and its subfields. With regard to textbooks of sociology, the Library collects at a high research level college textbooks published in the United States; foreign textbooks are selectively added to the collections. Secondary and primary school textbooks are rarely acquired; however, a strong representative selection of juvenile titles on specific social topics and problems is collected. Formats selected shall accord with the Copyright Best Edition statement.

Sociological materials are acquired in all formats, including but not limited to print, microformats, and electronic resources. Innovations in technology and the often impermanent nature of web-based information require increased attention to and monitoring of Library acquisitions and archiving of electronic resources.

IV. Acquisition Sources: Current and Future

Throughout the Library's history, copyright deposits have been the foundation of the great strength of the sociology collections. The other basic methods of acquisitions—exchange, gift, purchase, federal transfer, and (more recently) Cataloging in Publication—have also been significant sources contributing to this strength. Each of these methods will continue to be important and can be expanded or improved, but other channels need to be developed in order to deal with the constantly changing world of electronic publishing. U.S. and foreign government agencies, academic and professional associations, social service and public policy institutions, and social change organizations and movements have web sites with substantial information and publications which may or may not be available in print but which should be part of our sociology collections. Increased archiving of web sites and publications is needed, or there will be great gaps in what is available for future scholarly research.

V. Collecting Levels

The following tables are arranged according to the major subclasses of HM, HN, HQ, HS, HT, HV, HX, and

Z5300 and Z7161-7166 of the Library of Congress Classification Schedules. The collecting levels are numbered to conform with the RLG Conspectus. For a complete definition of these levels, see "Collecting Levels," on the Library's Collection Development web site.

Tables

A. Sociology (general and theoretical)

The numbers HM1-HM299 were used by the Library of Congress until January 1999. After that date, they were replaced by a revised subclass HM that begins at HM401. The numbers HM1-HM299 are currently used only to class new continuations of serials that are already classified in those numbers.

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
(HM1-HM299)		4	No longer used
HM401-HM421	Periodicals, societies, congresses	4	
HM425	Dictionaries and encyclopedias	4	
HM435-HM477	History	4	
HM481-HM554	Theory, method, relations to other subjects	4	
HM571-HM578	Study and teaching, research	3	
HM585-HM606	General works, treatises, advanced textbooks	4/3	U.S. 4, foreign textbooks 3
HM621-HM656	Culture	4	
HM661-HM696	Social control	4	
HM711-HM806	Groups and organizations	4	
HM831-HM901	Social change	4	
HM1001-HM1281	Social psychology	4	

B. Social history and conditions, social problems and reform

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HN1-HN3	Periodicals, societies, congresses	4	
HN8-HN19	History (includes social reform literature)	4	
HN25	Social statistics and indicators, quality of life	4	
HN29	Study and teaching, research	3	

HN30-HN40	The Church and social problems	4	
HM41-HN46	Community centers	4	
HN49	Special topics	4	
HN51-HN90	United States	4	Highest level of level 4
HN101-HN995	Other countries and regions	4/3	Academic treatises 4

C. Sexual life

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HQ12-HQ18	History and customs	4	
HQ19-HQ30.7	Sexual behavior and attitudes, sexuality	4	
HQ31-HQ64	Sex education and sexual ethics	4	Textbooks and instructional materials 3
HQ73-HQ77.95	Sexual minorities, including homosexuality and lesbianism	4	
HQ101-HQ440.9	Prostitution	4	
HQ450-HQ472	Erotica	4/3	Popular works 3

D. Marriage and the family, age groups

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HQ503-HQ727.9	History	4	
HQ728-HQ743	Treatises	4	
HQ745-HQ746	Wedding ceremonies, forms, etc.	3	
HQ750-HQ755.5	Eugenics	4	
HQ755.7-HQ759.92	Parenthood, parenting	4	
HQ760-HQ767.7	Family size, family planning and birth control; abortion	4	
HQ767.8-HQ792.2	Children, child development	4	

HQ793-HQ799.2	Adolescents	4	
HQ800	Single men and women	4	
HQ801	Courtship and dating	4/3	Academic treatises 4
HQ811-HQ960.7	Divorce	4	
HQ961-HQ997.5	Free love, polygamy and polyandry	4	
HQ998-HQ999	Illegitimacy and unwed mothers	4	
HQ1001-HQ1043	The State and marriage	4	
HQ1051-HQ1057	The Church and marriage	4	
HQ1058	Widows and widowers	4	
HQ1059.4-HQ1059.5	Middle age	4	
HQ1060-HQ1064	Old age, social gerontology, retirement	4	
HQ1073-HQ1073.5	Death and dying	4	
HQ1088-HQ1090.7	Men	4	

NOTE: The Library acquires at Level 4 current materials on birth control, abortion, the elderly, and death and dying which are written from a sociological perspective. Since the National Library of Medicine comprehensively acquires current materials on these subjects written from a medical perspective, the Library of Congress limits its acquisition of such materials to basic current reference works, monographs and serials at Level 3. For more information on the Library's policies concerning the acquisition of medical materials, consult the Medicine Collection Policy Statement.

E. Women, feminism, and women's studies.

The range of numbers HQ1101-HQ2030.7 covers only a portion of the women's studies collections which are classed from A to Z throughout the classification schedules. See the Women's Studies Collection Overview.

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HQ1101-HQ1106	Periodicals, societies, etc.	4	
HQ1115	Dictionaries and encyclopedias	4	
HQ1121-HQ1154	History of women	5/4	U.S. 5
HQ1180-HQ1181	Study and teaching, women's studies	4	Highest level of level 4
HQ1201-HQ1229	General works	4	

HQ1236	Women and the State	4	
HQ1240	Women and development	4	
HQ1381	Women and economics	4	
HQ1389	Women and art	4	
HQ11390-HQ1391	Women in public service	4	
HQ1397	Women in science and the arts	4	
HQ1401-HQ1870.9	Women by region or country	4/3	U.S. 4, others 3
HQ1871-HQ2039.9	Women's clubs	3	

F. Life and coping skills, life style.

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HQ2035-HQ2039	Life and coping skills	4/3	Popular works 3
HQ2042-HQ2044	Life style	4/3	Popular works 3

G. Secret and other societies, associations and clubs (HS)

The Library seeks to maintain a Level 4 collection of current materials about the sociology of societies, associations and clubs. In general the Library acquires published materials of and about specific political, cultural, philanthropic, benevolent, professional, scientific, business, labor, religious, racial, ethnic, fraternal and secret societies at the national level only. For more information about the Library's acquisitions policies concerning these materials, consult the Societies and Associations Collections Policy Statement.

NOTE: The Library does not normally acquire the unpublished records or papers of organizations, including those of the types of bodies just listed. See Section VII of the Manuscripts Collection Policy Statement.

H. Urban and rural sociology, social classes, and race (general)

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HT51-HT65	Communities (periodicals, societies, general works, etc.)	4	
HT101-HT395	Urban sociology, urban studies	4/3	U.S. national level 4, local level 3
HT111-HT150	History	4	U.S. high level 4

HT165.5-HT169.9	City planning (social, economic and political aspects)	4	U.S. high level 4
HT170-HT178	Urban renewal and redevelopment	4	U.S. high level 4
HT241-HT243	Urban ecology	4	
HT361-HT384	Urbanization	4	
HT390-HT395	Regional planning (social aspects)	4	U.S. high level 4
HT401-HT485	Rural sociology	4	
HT601-HT815	Social classes (except slavery)	4	
HT851-HT1444	Slavery, slave trade, and abolition (except U.S.), general and other countries	4	
HT1501-HT1595	Races and relations in general	4	

I. Social work, charities, and public welfare

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HV1-HV8	Periodicals, directories, societies, etc.	4	
HV16-HV25	History of philanthropy	4	
HV40-HV69	Social work, social service, charity organization and practice	4	
HV70-HV75	Charities and government policy	4	
HV85-HV520.7	By region or country	4/3	U.S. 4, others 3
HV551.2-HV639	Emergency management and disaster relief	4	
HV640-HV645	Refugee relief	4	
HV650-HV670	Life saving	4	
HV675-HV677	Accidents and accident prevention	4	
HV697-HV4630.9	Protection, assistance and relief by special classes (e.g., women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, homeless, immigrants, etc.)	4	

HV4701-HV4959	Animal welfare and animal rights	4	
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J. Social pathologies and criminology

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HV4961-HV4995	Social degeneration (primarily older titles), addictions	3	Current titles on addictions 4
HV4997-HV5000	Substance abuse	4	
HV5001-HV5722	Alcoholism and temperance reform	4	Temperance tracts 3, care and treatment of alcoholics 3
HV5725-HV5770	Tobacco use	4	Treatment 3
HV5800-HV5840	Drug habit, drug abuse	4	Treatment 3
HV6001-HV6249	Criminology (general works)	4	
HV6250-HV6250.4	Victims of crime, victimology	4	
HV6251-HV6773.55	Crimes and offenses (includes many specific categories of crimes)	4	
HV6430-HV6433.8	Terrorism	4	High level 4
HV6774-HV7220.7	Crimes and criminals, by country	4/3	U.S. 4, others 3
HV7231-HV7431	Criminal justice administration (general works)	4	
HV7435-HV7439	Gun control	4	
HV7551-HV8291	Police and police science, detectives	4	
HV8301-HVHV9960	Penology, prisons, corrections	4	U.S. 4, others 3
HV9051-HV9230.9	Juvenile offenders, juvenile delinquency	4	

NOTE: Since the National Library of Medicine comprehensively acquires current materials on the medical treatment of substance abuse and addiction, the Library of Congress restricts its acquisitions in these areas to the basic current reference works, monographs and serials at Level 3.

K. Socialism, communism, utopias, and anarchism

Communism and socialism in a specific country may class with the history of that country.

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
HX1-HX970.7	General works, history, and works dealing specifically with socialism, communism, utopias, and anarchism	4	

L. Subject bibliography

LC Classification		Collecting Level	Comments
Z5703	Criminology	4	High level 4
Z7161-Z7166	Political and social sciences: includes general sociology and specific sociological topics or subfields not covered elsewhere	4	High level 4

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